

Anthony T. Vu

U.S. Serial No. 09/682,366

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 11 and 18 to incorporate subject matter indicated as allowable. Claim 30 has also been amended to add additional structure to the claim to overcome the rejections raised by the Examiner. By these amendments, it is believed that claims 11, 18, and 30 are in condition for allowance.

New claims 31-34 have been added and incorporate the subject matter of claims 13, 16, 22, and 24, respectively. The Examiner had indicated that claims 13, 16, 22, and 24 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. As such, claims 31-34 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Authorization to charge Deposit Account 07-0845 for any fees under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 and 1.17 was provided at the time the application was filed. As such, please charge Deposit Account 07-0845 in the amount of \$850.00 for entry of the above amendments.

Regarding the outstanding rejection of claim 25, Applicant refers the Examiner to the remarks previously presented. Additionally, the Examiner has asserted that Kaufman et al. teaches a modifiable pulse sequence that can be used in either a 2D mode or a 3D mode. However, as previously presented, Kaufman et al., as shown in Fig. 4A thereof, only shows an "exemplary display screen shots of MR image parameter settings for diagnostic and fluoro-mode imaging." Col. 4, lns. 17-19. That is, Fig. 4A shows a user interface that enables a user to select parameters for an impending scan. While Fig. 4A and elements 352 and 354 show that the user interface allows the user to select between various imaging processes (i.e. FE, SF, 2D, or 3D), nowhere does Fig. 4A, or Kaufman et al. as a whole, teach or suggest that these various imaging processes are conducted using a "common pulse sequence" to acquire MR images in 2D or 3D modes. That is, Kaufman et al. makes no teaching or suggestion to conclude that a common pulse sequence is used for a selected 2D acquisition and a selected 3D acquisition.

Additionally, assuming that Kaufman et al. does teach such a modifiable pulse sequence, the reference fails to teach or suggest that the "modifiable pulse sequence is switched from one mode to another with a single repetition time," as called for in claim 25. Incidentally, the quoted clause in the immediately preceding sentence was subject matter originally presented in claim 26 (now canceled) that the Examiner previously indicated as allowable. The Examiner has failed to provide any basis as to why claim 25, which was amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 26, is now not in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, it is believed that claim 25 is patentably distinct from the art of record. Allowance thereof is therefore requested.

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By these amendments, Applicant believes the present application to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-11, 13-18, 20-25, and 27-34.

Respectfully submitted,



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